

## Claims

1. An absorbing element comprising hydrocolloids in an elastomeric matrix wherein at least a part of a first facade of the absorbing element comprises grottos of at least 5 $\mu$ m in diameter.
- 5 2. An absorbing element according to claim 1, further having adhesive properties.
3. An absorbing element according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the absorbing element is a pressure sensitive adhesive.
4. An absorbing element according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the first facade is adapted for releasable adhesion to skin.
- 10 5. An absorbing element according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the hydrocolloids are selected from the group consisting of naturally occurring hydrocolloids such as guar gum, locust bean gum, pectin, alginates, gelatine, xanthan or karaya gum; semisynthetic hydrocolloids such as cellulose derivatives, e.g. salts of carboxymethylcellulose, methylcellulose and hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, sodium starch glycollate; microcolloids; and synthetic hydrocolloids such as polyvinyl pyrrolidone, polyvinyl  
15 alcohol, polyethylene glycol or certain polyacrylates.
6. An absorbing element according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the elastomeric matrix is self adhesive.
7. An absorbing element according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the elastomeric  
20 matrix is a rubbery elastomeric base.
8. An absorbing element according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the elastomeric matrix is of material that do not flow at room temperature.
9. An adhesive element comprising an adhesive layer, the adhesive layer comprising at least:  
25 a first zone comprising a first surface associated with a first set of surface properties and at least one second zone comprising a second surface constituting at least a part of the surface of the adhesive element, the second surface being associated with a second set

of surface properties, the second set of surface properties differing from the first set of surface properties,

wherein material as present in the second surface is obtainable by a heat treatment of material in the first surface, said material comprising a pressure sensitive adhesive  
5 composition.

10. An absorbing element according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the first facade comprises

a first zone comprising a first surface associated with a first set of surface properties; and at least one second zone comprising a second surface being associated with a second set

10 of surface properties

the second set of surface properties differing from the first set of surface properties.

11. An absorbing element according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the first surface and the second surface form a pattern on the adhesive surface.

12. An absorbing element according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the set of  
15 different surface properties comprises the temporal profile of water absorption into the adhesive layer.

13. An absorbing element according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the set of different surface properties comprises an adhesive surface property of the adhesive layer.

14. An absorbing element according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the set of  
20 different surface properties comprises a property affecting the visual appearance of the adhesive layer.

15. An absorbing element according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the grottoes are obtained by heating the absorbing element.

25 16. An absorbing element according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the grottoes are obtained by heat treatment of the absorbing element.

17. An absorbing element according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the grottoes are obtained by heat treatment of the part of the first facade of the absorbing element with electromagnetic radiation with a wavelength of more than 400nm.

18. An absorbing element according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the heat treatment comprises irradiation of the first facade with an infrared laser.

19. An absorbing element according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the average size of the grottos is less than 500µm, such as less than 300µm, such as less than 200µm,  
5 such as less than 100µm.

20. An adhesive element as claimed in any of the preceding claims, said adhesive element being adapted to form part of a medical device, such as an ostomy body side member or a wound care dressing.

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21. A method of producing an adhesive element comprising an adhesive layer, the adhesive layer comprising at least a first zone having a first surface associated with a first set of surface properties and at least one second zone having a second surface constituting at least  
15 a part of the adhesive surface of the adhesive element, the second surface being associated with a second set of surface properties differing from the first set of surface properties, wherein material as present in the second surface is obtainable by a heat treatment of material in the first surface, said material comprising a pressure sensitive adhesive composition, said method comprising the steps of:

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- providing an adhesive element comprising an adhesive layer,
- selecting a heat source,
- locating the adhesive layer and the heat source in a relationship enabling a heat treatment of the second surface of the adhesive layer, and
- heat treating the second surface with the selected heat source for a sufficient time  
25 for obtaining the second set of properties.

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22. A method as claimed in claim 21, wherein the heat treatment comprises contact heating or convection heating.

23. A method as claimed in any of claims 21-22, wherein the heat treatment comprises irradiation of the second surface with electromagnetic radiation with a wavelength above  
30 400nm.

24. A method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the irradiation comprises irradiation with a laser or a polychromatic lamp.

25. A method as claimed in any of claims 21-24, wherein the heat treatment is performed using a mask for protecting parts of the surface to be less treated, said mask covering a part of the surface layer.

26. A method as claimed in any of claims 21-25, wherein the heat treatment is performed progressively such that the heat treatment of a first portion of the second zone of the adhesive layer is delayed compared to the heat treatment of second portion of the second zone of the adhesive layer.

27. A method as claimed in any of claims 21-26, wherein the heat treatment comprises writing a pattern on the surface of the adhesive layer with an infrared laser.

28. A method as claimed in any of claims 21-27, wherein the heat treatment is performed through a liner in contact with the adhesive layer.

29. An adhesive element obtainable by a method as claimed in any of claims 21-28 and having any of the properties claimed in claims 1-20.